

THE CRITIC'S CORNER.

WEEKLY CHAT REGARDING WRITERS AND BOOKS.

"The Upper Berth"—"Virginia Medical Monthly"—"An Initial Experience"—"A Journey in Other Worlds."

THE UPPER BERTH: By F. Marion Crawford. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York. London. For sale by West, Johnston & Co.

The contents of this small and tastefully bound volume are so far below Mr. Crawford's usual standard as to justify us, in wishing that for his own sake he had acted upon Miss Beatrice Harraden's suggestion, and "dusted" some of the clear books already on the market instead of adding to the list of mediocre literature.

It contains two short stories, one entitled "The Upper Berth," the other "By the Waters of Paradise," and neither would command the mildest interest if the popular novelists' name were not upon the cover. As it is, that name upon the cover is the worst possible preparation for the entire flatness of the book's contents.

Of the two stories, "By the Waters of Paradise" is, possibly, the better, although, indeed, it is not, as the writer makes its hero declare at its close, "Much of a story." However, it savors decidedly more of Crawford's individuality of style than does its predecessor.

It is, when all is said, a story of true love, and it is not possible for its writer to be totally uninteresting in narrating aught which deals with the great passion.

Both stories have a flavor of ghostliness, but the superior satisfactoriness of the second is not a little due to the fact that its ghost materializes in the most charming way, and, indeed, is proven to be no ghost at all, but a most human woman, and a dispeller of ghosts through her marriage with the hero.

THE RICH MISS RIDDELL: By Dorothea Gerard. Appleton's Town and Country Library. D. Appleton & Co. 50 cents. For sale by West, Johnston & Co.

We have not seen, for some months, two such pleasing additions to the "Town and Country" series as are "Mary Fenwick's Daughter" and the "Rich Miss Ridgell." An Englishman of intelligence declares that the "Bob" of the former book is a wonderfully true picture of many Devonshire maidens of to-day. He even says that her prototype is to be found in nearly every manor house in that country; that she is the rule there, not the exception. Certain it is that, if deficient in minor feminine instincts, until through physical suffering and enfeeblement, she awakens, her possession of large and fine and noble qualities makes her a notably pleasing study, and it is saying much for Miss Whitby's ability to pronounce, as all thoughtful readers must, that she has made of that dangerous thing—a sequel—a story abler and more interesting than the original.

The Rich Miss Ridgell, is, like Miss Whitby's charming novel, entirely free from the faults which distinguish the writers of what are well called the "writers of nervous fiction," and interests in an entirely wholesome way, not by an appeal to all that is morbid or weak in human nature.

The central figure in the story is "the plain" as well as "the rich" Miss Ridgell, and her individuality charms because of its pure nobility solely. The writer of Miss Ridgell's romance realized, with George Eliot, that many plain women have had their yellow packages of love letters and their devoted lovers, and she has narrated the story of such an one most attractively.

There is considerably more than the average amount of strength in the book. One clever writer would have permitted Bertha Norberg to marry Herr Tessely, a weaker one would have wound up the sketch of that young person in a style which, if satisfactory to the reader, would have been wholly at variance with her nature.

Certainly Miss Gerard has given us an interesting, healthful, and able story, much superior to the general run of paper bound novels.

THE VIRGINIA MEDICAL MONTHLY: June, 1894. Landon B. Edwards, M. D., 108 West Grace Street, Richmond, Va., editor and proprietor. \$3 per annum. 25 cents single copy. For sale by West, Johnston & Co.

It is gratifying to note how successful is the widely known and esteemed editor of the "Virginia Medical Monthly" in his efforts to make it a medium for the thought and experience of the younger members of the profession, not in any one State or section, but in general.

Contributing to the June number, the contents of which are both able and interesting, we find men from Georgia, California, West Virginia, Texas, New York, Washington, D. C., Kentucky and Massachusetts, which is the very best possible indication of the general esteem in which the magazine is justly held.

In the department devoted to "Original Contributions" are represented Drs. Julius Le Hardy, Savannah, Ga.; E. M. Magruder, of Charlottesville, Va.; V. T. Churchman, of Charleston, W. Va.; Q. C. Smith, of Austin, Texas; George M. Kober, of Fort Bidwell, Cal.; J. Wesley Bovee, of Washington, D. C.; W. B. De Garmo, of New York; and M. W. O'Brien, of Alexandria, Va.

A clinical report regarding a case of Dorsolumbar Spondylitis is submitted by Dr. William J. Crittenden, of Unionville, Va.

In the department devoted to "Correspondence" are four exceptionally interesting communications. The first is an addition to the correspondence, which has for some months been running through the magazine, regarding the discoverer of "Anaesthesia," and is from Dr. W. R. Hayden, of Bedford Springs, Mass. Dr. Hayden's letter is a summary of the former correspondence on the subject, and of what the writer evidently regards as proof that Dr. Morton and not Dr. Crawford Long, of Georgia, has the claim to priority in the discovery.

Letter number two is headed "A Political-Social Disease." Its writer (and it is a significant thing) is Dr. Cleon C. Owens, of Maysville, Ky., a prominent Kentucky physician and a first cousin of Congressman W. C. P. Breckinridge's bitterest opponent in the Congressional race in the Ashland district.

Dr. Owens, we are sure, voices the sentiments of all true men (although with some euphemism), when he claims that it is not in good or delicate taste for the women of Kentucky to "go to skirmish in political battle," however excellent their

intentions. The doctor might be a little less ornate and more simple, but undoubtedly his position is the correct one.

Dr. Evans, of Burlington, Iowa, is represented by a letter on "Safety in Anaesthesia," and Dr. C. G. Connaday, of Roanoke, by an account of the International Medical Congress in Rome.

A Record of the Proceedings of the Medical and Surgical Society of the District of Columbia, book notices, editorials, and numerous advertisements complete the issue.

AN INITIAL EXPERIENCE AND OTHER STORIES: Edited by Capt. Chas. King. J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia. \$1. For sale by West, Johnston & Co.

Of the twelve entertaining stories contained in this volume, only one is written by Captain King, although all are edited by him, and all are good. His reputation as a teller of war stories is thoroughly established, and the contents of this book prove him to be a discriminating compiler as well as an able writer.

It is not easy to say which of the stories is the best. All are good, and each is marked by the distinctive characteristics of its writer's best literary efforts. "In The 'Never, Never Country,'" is certainly among the most pathetic as well as interesting of the series.

The scene is laid in northwestern Australia, the "Never Never Country" being a bush term applied to that portion of the continent which lies beyond the confines of the remotest settlements.

Its curious name is obtained from an old bush song, with the refrain "If you once get there, You'll never come back, never come back."

"the truth of which," says the writer of story (R. Monckton Dene), has too often been verified. The "Never, Never Country" has always been a land of promise to the venturesome pioneer spirits of Australia, who still seek to find New Eldorado within its trackless solitudes, and the bones of many a fearless bushman lie bleaching on its desert wastes. In my early youth the whole of the northern portion of Australia west of the one hundred and forty-fifth meridian was known as the "Never, Never Country" and was thought to be a hopeless desert. Now the footfalls of the white man echo along the border of the northern territory from the Gulf of Carpentaria to the boundary of South Australia, and the "Never, Never Country" will soon become nothing but a legend of the bush. It is at present limited to the unknown districts of Western Australia and the Northern Territory.

In this region, then, Mr. Dene finds material for an exquisite story of womanly love and devotion—love of that degree which "lays down its life for its friend."

From start to finish it is well told, containing telling pictures of life in a mining camp. However, while this story appeals most strongly to our individual taste, doubtless each of the others will find equal favor with many hundreds of readers.

A JOURNEY IN OTHER WORLDS: By John Jacob Astor. D. Appleton & Co. New York. For sale by West, Johnston & Co.

In spite of the success of Mr. W. W. Astor as editor of the "Pall Mall" Gazette, the name Astor is decidedly more familiar as a synonym for financiering ability than literary brilliancy, and it will be a considerable time before we shall cease to experience a slight shock upon seeing it on the fly leaf of "Romances of the Future" or, indeed, of romances of any time or kind.

The character of "A Journey in Other Worlds" illustrates very conclusively that if its writer's mental trend is toward the field of literature, he has more bias than ability, for, if we may judge him by this book, he is emphatically not a writer, and he makes an egregious error in supposing himself to be.

The book is a total disappointment. Purporting to be "a scientific romance," its science is no science at all, and is radically illogical. As a whole it has a strong flavor of Jules Verne about it, and its assumptions are quite as absurd and fanciful.

It contains a number of fascinating touches, such as the hunting scenes on the planet Jupiter, etc., but its reasoning is lamentably wrong and its conclusions impossible.

LITERARY BRIEFS.

Regarding People Whose Names are Familiar.

In Blackwood's are printed some interesting passages from a private diary describing a visit to the Tennysons in 1829. The visitor was Miss Louisa Laneborough, who, disguised as a maid-servant, accompanied her friend, Mrs. Neville, to the Tennyson home. She was asked to help wait at table, and says: "Though I did it very well, my hand shook so the first time I took Alfred Tennyson's plate that I thought it must be seen." But she had a greater source of embarrassment, which is described in these words, the name Miss Marion being one which the poet gave her: "She was one day passing the open door of Alfred's room as he lay in bed reading and smoking at some late hour of the morning, and, catching sight of the trim 'Maid Marion' as she passed, he called to her to enter. 'Marion, I want a book from the bookshelf downstairs. Will you get it for me?' He attempted to describe it, but it was a German work—so you cannot read the title," quoth he. "I know it," said demure Marion unwittingly, forgetting for a moment her assumed character, and she tripped lightly downstairs and brought it back at once. Alfred stared at her in astonishment. 'Why, do you understand German?' he questioned. She stammered an evasive reply and left the room. That evening, at dinner or supper, Alfred calling for beer, a refractory cork refused to be drawn, and every one tried their hands on it in vain. 'Where is your Marion?' said Alfred to Mrs. Neville; 'she could do it! She can do everything, I verily believe—from reading German to waiting at table. Let her try.'"

Jean Ingelew spends her winters in the south of France, where she has a cottage overlooking the Mediterranean. Her London house is in Kensington, and stands with its crown of ivy in the midst of a spacious garden half hidden among trees.

The popularity of novels is probably nowhere so great as in Australia. It is said that 90 per cent. of the female and 75 per cent. of the male frequenters of the public libraries read novels almost exclusively.

Japan is not only adopting the material civilization of the West, but is as eagerly assimilating its literature. Many standard English novels have lately been translated into Japanese, and ten-cent paper editions of Dickens in the vernacular are especially popular.

FOOD FOR REFLECTION.

GATHERED FROM THE RELIGIOUS AND GENERAL PRESS.

Words of Wisdom on Religious and Moral Subjects Which Are Worthy of Attention From the Thoughtful.

The Changeless.

Men change, but change is not of Thee;
Thou still remain'st the same;
Thou art infinite Constancy,
And Faithful is Thy name.

TAUGHT BY SILENCE.

The Lord "Not in the Whirlwind" Nor the Clamor.

It is in silence we hear the voice of Truth. The temples and the marts of men echo all night and day to the clamor of lies and shams and quackeries. But in silence falsehood cannot live. You cannot float a lie on silence. A lie has to be puffed aloft, and kept from falling by men's breath. Leave a lie on the bosom of silence, and it sinks. A truth floats there fair and stately, like some stout ship upon a deep ocean. Silence buoys her up lovingly for all men to see. Not until she has grown wornout and rotten, and is no longer a truth, will the waters of silence close over her.

Silence is the only real thing we can lay hold of in this world of passing dreams. Time is a shadow that will vanish with the twilight of humanity; but silence is a part of the eternal. All things that are true and lasting have been taught to men's hearts by silence.

Among all nations there should be vast temples raised where the people might worship silence and listen to it, for it is the voice of God.

These fair churches and cathedrals that men have reared around them throughout the world have been built as homes for mere creeds—this one for Protestantism, that one for Romanism, another for Mohammedanism. But God's silence dwells in all alike, only driven forth at times by the tinkling of bells and the mumbled prayers; and in these fair temples it is good to sit awhile and have communion with her.—Jerome K. Jerome.

JOYOUS RELIGION.

The Spirit Which Should Animate Christians.

The following that Christ, in common with all learners, desires is that of unconstrained and hearty choice. He does not wish to be followed by those who feel themselves under compulsion, and who sadly and reluctantly, and as if constrained by an overpowering necessity, abandon what they are taught is inconsistent with discipleship. Religion must be a free, hearty, joyous thing, or it is worth little. If, instead of giving strength to bear our burdens, it really adds a burden of its own, it is worth little. If it does not develop us into a manhood which finds no relish in the childish frivolities that formerly attracted us, we have not experienced the true power of religion. Connection with Christ lifts men into a life in which certain things seem incongruous, unattractive, impossible. Elisha made no lamentation at his leave-taking. He made a feast. It was like the festival of a bride, who feels leaving the old home, but whose sorrow is drowned in an overwhelming joy.

And yet, where the love of what is good has not as yet so rooted itself as to make all obedience and righteousness spontaneous and delightful, discouragement should not be allowed. For the perfect love, which rejoices only in good, is a great attainment; and if our will is so resolutely bent on righteousness that we compel ourselves to do it, the love of it will follow. We must not forget that our character is at present in process of formation. A perfect character will delight in all good, and the fulfillment of all duty will be but the expression of its own leanings and likings; but while the character is only in the stage of growth and immaturity, it must be judged by what the will is resolutely set upon. If we are determined to be righteous, then we are righteous, even though the love of righteousness is as yet more a matter of conviction than of feeling.—Exchange.

Love's Power.

The alchemy of love transmutes the gift of a handful of sand to shining grains of gold in the offering, and especially to anyone of a sensitive nature kindness is one of the most appreciated gifts that can be offered. "Tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." What is there that we cannot forgive when we remember all that God for Christ's sake hath forgiven us so freely and graciously. Have we not sinned sometimes so grievously that we have found it hard to forgive ourselves? Have we not trailed our ideals in the dust, and scarcely had the heart to raise them again, and go on our way after failure and fault? Over and over again has not the temptation which is so interwoven in our nature that it is always present with us, overcome us, and we have known that all about us, seeing not the conquests, but knowing only the falls, have doubted whether we have indeed ever tried to conquer it? If looking only at our own faults we have found so much to forgive, and yet have had the consciousness of full and free forgiveness from our Heavenly Father, can we retain a hard and unforgiving spirit towards any other of his children, no matter how grievously they have sinned against us? Can we not forgive until seventy times seven, remembering all the forgiveness which we need each day? To walk worthy of our vocation is not an easy task, but remembering whose strength we can claim for the battle, we may hope to follow, though it may be from afar, in the same path in which Christ our great Example once walked triumphantly.—Mrs. Geo. A. Paul.

DR. ABBOTT'S OPINION.

He Protests Against the Condemnation of Dr. Smith.

The condemnation of Dr. Henry P. Smith by the Presbyterian General Assembly was the subject of the Rev. Dr. Lyman Abbott's discourse in Plymouth church, Sunday night. He said the impression prevailed that Dr. Smith would not have been excluded had it not been that another was anxious to take his place. After reviewing the Briggs controversy, Dr. Abbott took up the charges against Dr. Smith.

"There have been two theories," Dr. Abbott said, "respecting inspiration in

the Church of Christ. The verbal theory is that every word and line is inspired; the other is that worthy men were inspired and wrote the work which is called the Bible. Dr. Smith argued in his papers that it was legitimate to teach that there were errors in the Bible. By the rulings of the Presbytery Mr. Gladstone would be disqualified from preaching in the Presbyterian church, for he held views identical with those of Dr. Smith.

"I protest," continued Dr. Abbott, "against this action because it is not the doctrine of Protestantism and the teaching of Jesus Christ. When a man is to be tried before a court the first endeavor is to secure a tribunal free from prejudice. In the Presbyterian Assembly there were not a dozen men familiar with the Bible on the questions before them. They could not determine whether Moses wrote the Pentateuch or whether two men wrote Isaiah. The majority of the men before whom Dr. Smith was tried knew nothing of the question at issue.

"I also protest against this action because it is un-American and subversive of the fundamental principles of Presbyterianism. Every man has a right to read the Bible for himself. Dr. Smith was not turned out for teaching what should not be taught, but was turned out while it is being determined what he should teach."

CLOSELY CONDENSED NEWS

Regarding the Religious World in General.

The United Presbyterian Synod of Scotland at its last annual meeting in Edinburgh reported a church membership of 188,706, an increase of 1,631. This is considered very encouraging, and an indication that the Church is telling on the community beyond her own families. On the question of Church Union reference was made to the fact that seven different branches had been consolidated to form the United Presbyterian Church, and it stood always in the line of union with other bodies, especially the Free Church. The Report on foreign missions showed that there are seventy-one ordained European missionaries in Jamaica, Trinidad, Old Calabar, Caffraria, India, China (Manchuria) and Japan. The income of the ordinary fund was about \$106,000, a decrease of \$11,000. The congregational contributions, however, showed an advance of \$5,000. The Ministers' Temperance Society in its report showed an increase in the number of total abstainers.

The hearing on the proposed Amendment to the Constitution, to tax Church property, is attracting great attention. The Sun, New York, estimates the total value of Church property in New York State to be \$140,123,008. Those who favor the exemption of Church property argue that the property is non-productive. Those who urge the taxation answer: A great deal of secular property is non-productive, while in many churches, pews are rented at such prices that only the wealthy can secure them, making these churches, practically, club-rooms for the rich. The exemptionists say that the churches exert a great moral influence, and, therefore, they should not be taxed. The non-exemptionists declare that this is the weakest defense of church-pauperism; and ask: What can be said of the moral influence of an organization which deliberately refuses to pay its just dues?

There is a movement in Chicago to have Sunday services in the various theatres, specially lectures with a stereopticon on the life of Christ, and prominent persons are considering topics along this line. A special list of slides is to be prepared by the St. Andrew Brotherhood. The object of this is to gather the large number of people who on Sunday will not go to a church, but are ready to enter a theatre.

The American Baptist Home Missionary Society reports as total receipts for the year \$46,213; from contributions and trust funds, \$30,090; legacies, \$45,553. The total expenditures for the year were \$24,156; for missionaries' salaries, \$229,189; for teachers \$33,334. The receipts for general missionary and educational purposes have averaged for eleven years \$29,598; the receipts for last year were nearly \$30,000 above the average.

A review of the work of the Salvation Army throughout the world gives the following facts: Corps and outposts, 7,397; training garrisons, 66; slum posts, 64; rescue homes, 49; prison gate homes, 12; home of rest, 24; food and shelter depots, 53; factories and labor bureaus, 32; farm colonies, 5; number of officers, 10,874; social officers, 443; rescue officers, 288; slum officers, 186; farm colony officers, 37; War Cry sold weekly, 260,532; Young Soldiers sold weekly, 147,582; magazines monthly, 114,990. The report for the United States shows 114 corps and outposts, 14 slum posts, 5 rescue homes, 5 food and shelter depots, and 1,634 officers.

The Religious Tract Society of London at its recent annual meeting reported total receipts of \$98,000. There had been 583 new publications sent out during the year. The society now publishes in 29 languages, dialects, and characters.

Father Malone, editor of The Colorado Catholic, who was removed from his parish by Bishop Matz, has been reinstated by Archbishop Chapelle, whose decision is complimentary to the pastoral work of the priest, and Father Malone last Sunday conducted high mass in his own church.

The Best General.

Life, like war is a series of mistakes, and he is not the best Christian nor the best general who makes the fewest false steps. He is the best who wins the most splendid victories by the retrieval of mistakes. F. W. ROBERTSON.

Kindness.

Oftentimes the hindrances that lie in the path of duty may be compared to the toll gates upon our turnpike roads—they are kept shut till we are just upon them, and then fly open, as it were, of themselves. And that is time enough. If they had been open a week beforehand, we could but have gone through at last.—John Newton.

Always Advancing.

There is no point at which the Christian stops and says "I have attained; I have gained it all; I know it all." His conscience is growing ever more sensitive to slight departure from rectitude; he becomes better able to detect little infractions of the perfect law; and he is increasingly scrupulous as to the purity of his motives and the fervor of his quick response to all God's calls.—Zion's Herald.

The number of visitors to Stratford for last year was much smaller than in previous years. The English attribute this to the Americans who went to Chicago last year.